

## Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 AID-20 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 FEA-02

DRC-01 /138 W

----- 046015

R 060550Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

SECSTATE WASHDC 1171

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 3641

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, SN, VS, CB, ENRG

SUBJECT: VIETNAMESE/CAMBODIAN DISPUTE OVER OIL

DRILLING IN GULF OF THAILAND

REF: SINGAPORE 3624

1. SINGAPORE STRAITS TIMES CITING UPI REPORT FROM PHNOM PENH SEPTEMBER 6 REPORTS THAT AMERICAN EMBASSY SOURCES IN PHNOM PENH STATE THAT ERAP-ELF (GLOMAR 4) RIG WHICH HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF A DISPUTE BETWEEN VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA IS NOT MOVING OUT OF THE AREA.

2. HOWEVER, AN OFFICIAL OF GLOBAL MARINE, WHICH OWNS THE RIG, TOLD EMBOFF IN CONFIDENCE LATE SEPTEMBER 5 THAT ELF HAS AGREED WITH GLOBAL TO MOVE THE RIG. HE ADDED THAT REASSESSMENT OF THEIR CAPABILITIES LEADS GLOBAL TO THINK THEY CAN COMPLETE THE MOVE BEFORE THE SEPTEMBER 12 DEADLINE. STRAITS TIMES STORY SEPTEMBER 6 REPORTED ELF REP L SINGAPORE SAID SERVICE BOAT, DE SOTO, WAS BEING  
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REFITTED IN SINGAPORE SHIPYARD AND WOULD SAIL TO GULF

IN TWO DAYS TIME. HE SAID DE SOTO WOULD BE ABLE TO  
RELEASE THE RIG'S ANCHOR IF IT BECAME NECESSARY FOR  
TEAM TO LEAVE THE GULF AND ADDED "WE ARE NOT TAKING ANY  
CHANCES AND WILL GIVE THE HIGHEST PRIORITY TO OUR CREW'S  
SAFETY." FRENCH EMBASSY HAS CONFIRMED THAT ELF IS NOW  
PREPARED TO WITHDRAW THE RIG.

3. SENIOR OFFICIAL OF ESSO SINGAPORE SPECULATED IN STRICT  
CONFIDENCE TO EMBOFF THAT A POSSIBLE REASON FOR VIETNAM'S  
ULTIMATUM IN THIS MATTER LIES IN VIETNAM'S OTHER OIL EX-  
PLORATION ACTIVITIES. HE POINTED OUT THAT MOBIL HAS RECENTLY  
REPORTED A DISCOVERY IN VIETNAMESE WATERS, AND THAT THE GVN  
IS ANXIOUS TO EXPAND EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT  
OF THIS DISCOVERY. THE GLOMAR 4 RIG WAS ON LEASE TO MOBIL  
BEFORE THE PRESENT LEASE TO ELF. IF THE ELF LEASE IS  
TERMINATED DUE TO DISCONTINUANCE OF OPERATIONS AT THE DIS-  
PUTED SITE, MOBIL WILL PRESUMABLY AGAIN BE ABLE TO LEASE  
THE RIG FOR DRILLING IN SUPPORT OF THEIR EARLIER  
DISCOVERY. WHEN EMBOFF EXPRESSED SKEPTICISM  
WHETHER GVN WOULD PRECIPITATE SERIOUS INCIDENT  
WITH NEIGHBORING STATE FOR SUCH A PURPOSE, ESSO REP  
SAID FROM HIS COMPANY'S EXPERIENCES IN VIETNAM HE  
BELIEVED GVN OR ELEMENTS OF IT WOULD BE QUITE CAPABLE OF  
DOING SO.  
CRONK

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, DISPUTES, OFFSHORE DRILLING  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 06 SEP 1974  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** shawdg  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** VIETNAMESE/CAMBODIAN DISPUTE OVER OIL DRILLING IN GULF OF THAILAND  
**TAGS:** PBOR, ENRG, SN, VS, CB  
**To:** SAIGON  
**Type:** TE  
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